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First Named Inventor Rodriques, Klein A. et al.

Art Unit 1711

Examiner Name Asinovsky, Olga

Attorney Docket Number 2002.ALC

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Reply Brief Under 37 C.F.R. § 41.41


PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: RODRIQUES, Klein A. *et al.*
SERIAL NO.: 10/072 402 **GROUP ART UNIT:** 1711
FILED: 8 February 2002 **EXAMINER:** ASINOVSKY, Olga
ENTITLED: HYDROPHOBE-AMINE GRAFT COPOLYMER

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REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.41

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed from the Office on 21 September 2005, Appellants provide the following reply –

The Examiner states at p. 5 of her Answer that the “polyoxyethylene having hydroxyl end group is polyethylene glycol that is alcohol ethoxylate”, and the “segment $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-CH_2-CH_2-OH$ is readable as an alcohol ethoxylate.” This is incorrect. From FORMULATING DETERGENTS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS: A GUIDE TO PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, Chpt. 1, p. 23 (AOCS Press, Champaign, Illinois (2000)) (enclosed herewith as the Appendix), it is seen that alcohol ethoxylates have the chemical formula $R-O-(CH_2-CH_2O)_nH$, which is clearly different from the structure cited by the Examiner. Page 22 of the FORMULATING DETERGENTS reference illustrates the general formula for polyoxyethylene carboxylates as $R-(OCH_2-CH_2)-O-CH_2-COO^-$. Replacing the carboxyl functionality with a hydroxyl functionality results in the “polyoxyethylene having hydroxyl end group” referred to by the Examiner. Clearly this polyoxyethylene compound differs from the claimed alcohol ethoxylate.

Regarding claims 19 and 20 and the Examiner’s assertion at p.7 of her Answer that it –
would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a graft copolymer in Arfaei invention in the form of an aqueous coating composition wherein said coating composition comprises a desired active ingredient, and wherein a method of using said composition includes steps of coating, introducing said coating into an aqueous environment and control the pH value to the desired level. . . .

Applicants assert that the Examiner’s Answer is improper and constitutes impermissible hindsight. Arfaei is directed towards plasticizing additives for use in hydraulic cement compositions (col. 1, lines 19-22). The additives function in reducing the amount of water used in such compositions, resulting in cement having higher compressive strength (col. 1, lines 33-47 and 11-18). Nowhere does Arfaei even remotely suggest the use of its additives as an encapsulant for active ingredients (see, e.g., col. 6, line 60 – col. 7, line 53, particularly col. 7, lines 16-17). Therefore, one skilled in the art, having Arfaei before him, is provided no motivation to modify the teachings of Arfaei to make use of its plasticizing additives as an encapsulant for active ingredients. Rather, such ‘motivation’ can only be found by use of the present application as a template for such an invention. Such ‘motivation’ is improper and does not render the presently claimed invention obvious (see, e.g., *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *SmithKline Diagnostics, Inc. v. Helena Laboratories Corp.*, 859 F.2d 878, 887, 8 USPQ2d 1468, 1475 (Fed. Cir. 1988), stating that a challenger to the validity of

a patent "has the burden to show some teachings or suggestions in the references to support their use in the particular claimed combination").

Regarding the Examiner's statements concerning the obviousness of claims 17 and 18, Applicants again assert that the Examiner is using impermissible hindsight, as Arfaei provides no suggestion or motivation for using its plasticizing additives for encapsulating, coating or associating with an active ingredient or substance. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of this claim is improper and should not be sustained.

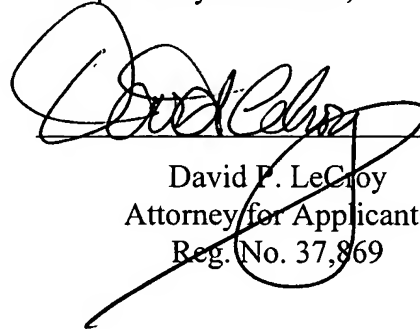
Likewise, claims 15 and 16 are directed towards treating a substrate with the copolymer of the present invention due to their affinity to substrates (see, p. 5, line 15 – p. 6, line 6 of the present description). In contrast, Arfaei only suggests the use of its plasticizing additives for reducing the amount of water in cement compositions. Arfaei does not teach or suggest that its additives will associate with a substrate. Therefore, Arfaei provides no motivation to treat substrates with its additives according to present claims 15 and 16.

For these reasons, as well as those reasons previously provided in Appellants' 5 July 2005 Appeal Brief and 8 July 2005 Supplement, it is respectfully submitted that the final rejection of all claims is untenable and should not be sustained. Allowance of the claims is believed to be in order, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Dated: 21 November 2005

NATIONAL STARCH AND CHEMICAL COMPANY
10 Finderne Avenue
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
Phone 908.685.5433
Fax 908.707.3706

Respectfully submitted,


David P. LeCroy
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 37,869

APPENDIX



Regulating Instruments and Personal Care Products

Product Development

Ho Ian Tai

Formulating Detergents and Personal Care Products

A Guide to Product Development

Louis Ho Tan Tai
Lambert, France



Champaign, Illinois

AOCS Mission Statement

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Word to the English Edition

This new English version of this book, it immediately became clear and after an acceptable English text was dev. re-publications by AOCS Press.

and personal care product develo made in the detergent area.

the formulator—and one with superi the development of a product and sees tion, development, manufacture, consum

peripheral topics such as analysis, perfume equipment, subjects not usually found in texts

as is needed to explain the "why" behind the ma t make in the course of his activities.

offers helpful and practical advice, which reflects the exp required in the course of his career.

distillation of a lifetime of experience by a creative and respe in the field.

an informal style, more like a series of instructive lectures rat review.

should note that the book is written from a French perspective, w. from the French market and French legislation. It is stronger than on personal care products—hence the sequence of these subjects

limitations are minor compared to the scope and breadth which the bo The latter have inspired me to spend many hours on editing the origi on to make this book accessible to English-speaking readers.

Arno Cahn
Arno Cahn Consulting Services, Inc.
Pearl River, New York
May 20

The research highlights the main problems encountered by consumers. Thanks to research of this type, we know that on the whole, today's consumers are satisfied with the results they obtain but that certain stains continue to cause problems (ranked from the most resistant to the least difficult).

Consumer needs are also carefully monitored, thanks to this type of study. The problems encountered and consumer demands are the two indicators that help the formulator to develop products that truly reflect current consumer needs. This example based on clothes laundering is of course applicable to all other types of detergents for which similar surveys are conducted, i.e., dishwashing (hand and machine), personal care (soap, shower and bath products, shampoo), and other surfaces (bathrooms, floors, windows, modern surfaces).

Reference

1. World Market Analysis, Unilever, September 1997.

CHAPTER 1

The Main Surfactants Used in Detergents and Personal Care Products and Theories of Detergency

Classification of Surfactants and Their Process of Synthesis

Classification of Surfactants

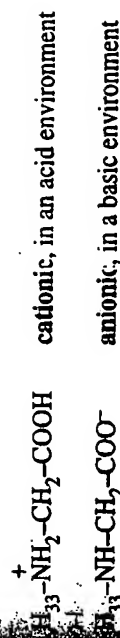
A surfactant molecule consists of two parts, a hydrophobic part (insoluble in water) and a hydrophilic part (soluble in water). These molecules are highly active at interfaces between air and water or oil and water. They have a number of functions, including surface active agents, detergents, surfactants, or simply active agents. Their main classes of surfactants are: anionic, nonionic, cationic, and amphoteric.

Anionic Surfactants. When the polar group, which is linked in a covalent bond with the hydrophobic part of the surfactant, carries a negative charge ($-\text{COO}^-$, $-\text{SO}_4^-$) the surfactant is called anionic; soaps, alkylbenzenesulfonates, and alcohol sulfates are all anionic active surface agents.

Cationic Surfactants. When the polar group carries a positive charge ($-\text{R}_3\text{N}^+$), the surfactant is cationic; dimethyldistearyl ammonium chloride is an example of this category.

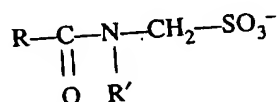
Nonionic Surfactants. Nonionic surfactants have a polar group that can be linked in an aqueous solution. The hydrophobic part consists of the fatty chain, and the hydrophilic part contains nonionizable atoms of oxygen, nitrogen, or sulfur. It is obtained as a result of the formation of hydrogen bonds between water molecules and certain functions of the hydrophilic part, for example, the ethylene oxide of the polyoxyethylene (hydration phenomenon). In this category we find derivatives of polyoxyethylene or polyoxypropylene, but sugar esters and amides can also be included.

Amphoteric Surfactants. Amphoteric surfactants are components which can form a dipolar ion. Cetylamine acetic acid, for example, produces the following forms in an aqueous environment:



In Europe, soap is used in detergents only as an antifoaming agent. It is also used in liquid detergents and soap-based shower gels. In developing countries, it is used for all-purpose products. Soap manufacturing processes are covered in detail in Chapter 12.

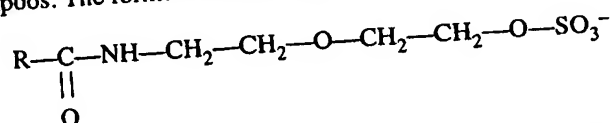
Sulfoalkylamides of fatty acid (N-alkyl taurides) have the following chemical formula:



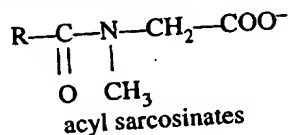
If $\text{R}' = \text{CH}_3 \rightarrow \text{N-methyl tauride}$

The advantages of these products include foaming ability, lime soap-dispersing properties, and a feel similar to that of soap-based formulas.

Diglycolamide sulfates are not unstable in an aqueous solution and can be used in shampoos. The formula is as follows:

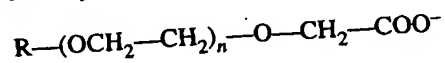


N-Acyl amino acids include acylsarcosinates; the formula is as follows:



The salts of *N-acyl amino acids* have good foaming and detergency properties. They are more soluble in hard water than soap and are not too aggressive on skin or hair. They give a soft feeling to hair and skin.

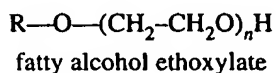
Polyoxyethylene carboxylates have the following chemical formula:



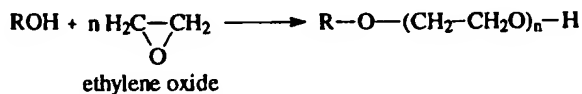
These derivatives have satisfactory detergency properties and the ability to disperse lime soap (the same properties as the *N-acyl amino acid salts*); when n is high, they are compatible with cationics. They are easy to rinse off and are soluble at a low pH.

Nonionics. This group includes fatty alcohol polyethylene glycol ether or fatty alcohol ethoxylates, ethylene oxide and propylene oxide copolymers, amine oxides, alkylamines, alkanolamides, polyglycerol esters, alkyl polyglucosides, and fatty acid *N-alkylglucosamides*.

Alcohol ethoxylates (AE) have the following chemical formula:

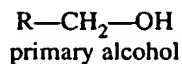


Among commercial nonionics, those made from fatty alcohols with ethylene oxide are the most commonly used today. The basic chemical reaction used to change a fatty alcohol into a nonionic is the following:

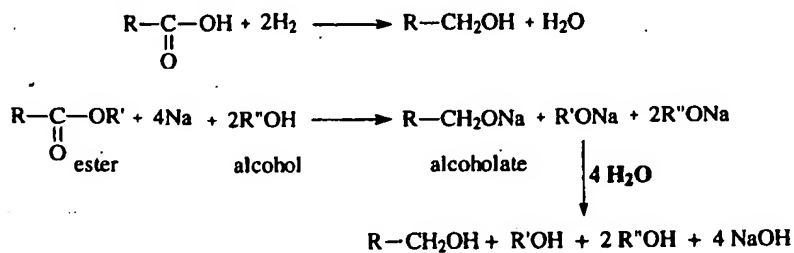


There are a number of processes for synthesizing fatty alcohol; the following are among the main ones:

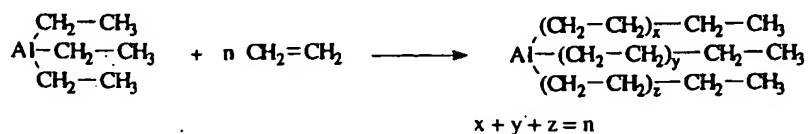
(i) Primary alcohols. The chemical formulation is as follows:



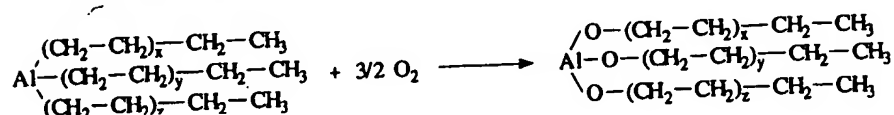
(ii) Natural alcohols. Natural fatty alcohols are produced from vegetable oils and fats. Although there are many processes to produce natural fatty alcohols, the most common is the reduction of either fatty acids or fatty esters according to the following equations:



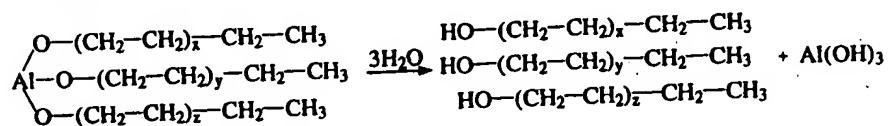
(iii) Synthetic alcohols. In the Ziegler process, the first stage is to react ethylene with a triethyl-aluminum to obtain an aluminum alkyl as follows:



The aluminum alkyl is then oxidized to give an aluminum alcoholate as follows:

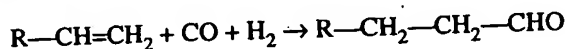


The aluminum alcoholate is finally hydrolyzed in an acidic medium to produce the fatty alcohols.

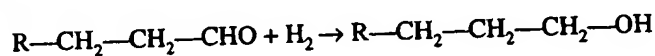


A mixture of fatty alcohols is obtained with a Poisson distribution. The alcohols with a carbon chain between C_{12} and C_{20} are separated for use as detergent raw materials. It should be noted that alcohols obtained by the Ziegler method have an alkyl chain with an *even number* of carbon atoms, e.g., C_{12} - C_{14} - C_{16} - C_{18} - C_{20} .

In the OXO process, there are two main stages in the synthesis of fatty alcohols. In the first stage, a molecule of carbon monoxide and hydrogen and a molecule of olefin are combined according to the following reaction:

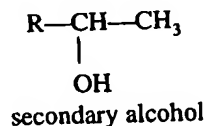


In the second stage, the aldehyde function is reduced to obtain fatty alcohol:

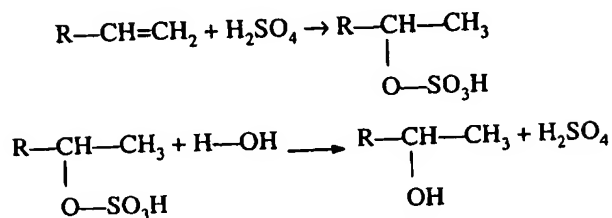


The alkyl chains of the alcohols can have an odd number or an even and odd number of carbon atoms (uneven, starting product = ethylene; even + uneven, starting product = olefin). Commercial products belonging to this class and regularly used in Europe are Dobanols (Shell), even and odd number of carbon atoms, and Synperonics (ICI), odd number of carbon atoms.

(iv) Secondary alcohols. The chemical formula is as follows:

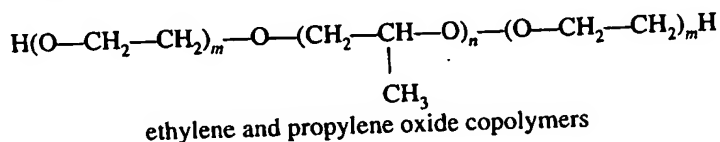


Considerable work has been reported on the preparation of secondary fatty alcohols—oxidation of paraffin, hydrogenation of paraffin and hydrolysis of halides, the addition of thioacetic acid to olefin, and hydrolysis and hydration of α -olefins. The hydration of α -olefin follows:

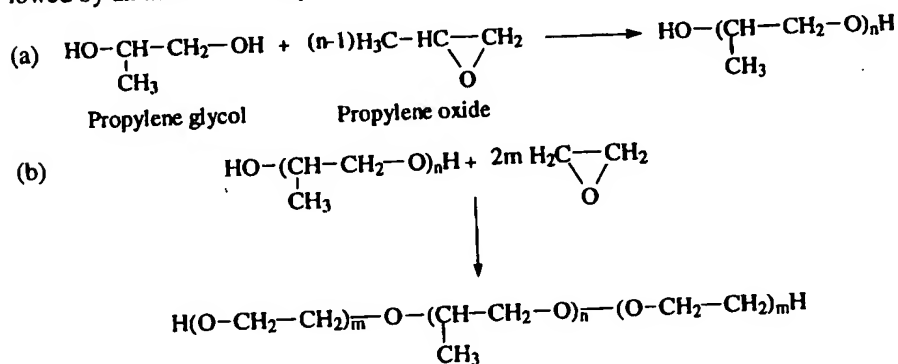


Secondary fatty alcohol ethoxylates sold in the industry are, for example, Tergitol 15-S-5 and 15-S-7 EO, respectively (Union Carbide).

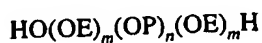
Ethylene oxide (EO) and propylene oxide (PO) copolymers (EO/PO adducts) have the following chemical formula:



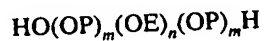
These are polyols obtained by adding propylene oxide to propylene glycol, followed by an addition of ethylene oxide, using the following scheme:



In abbreviated form this is written as follows:



To obtain better alkaline stability, it is preferable to invert the addition as follows:



The ratio of EO to PO can vary between 4:1 and 9:1 with a minimum molecular weight of ~2000. These derivatives are used mainly in automatic dishwashing products

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